



Cover crop trials in progress.

Award Amount

\$118,000

Watershed

Cache Creek Watershed

County

Yolo County

CALFED Region

Sacramento Valley Region

Legislative Districts

US Congress: 2

State Assembly: 2

State Senate: 5

Purpose

Provide resources for outreach to diverse participants to coordinate activities in support of better management of the watershed.

Project Goals

- Educate landowners and support watershed stewardship through on-the-ground demonstration and education projects.
- Promote collaboration and partnerships between diverse stakeholders and agencies involved in activities in the watershed.
- Facilitate landowner conservation efforts.
- Monitor the project's effects and communicate results within the community and throughout the CALFED region.

Benefits to the CALFED Program

Cache Creek is part of the Ecosystem Restoration Program's (ERP) Yolo Basin Ecological Management Zone. The ERP Plan (ERPP) acknowledges the need to reduce mercury loads into the watershed, improve riparian habitat, and control streambank erosion within the watershed. The ERPP also states that supporting the involvement of local citizens and interested parties in existing organizations such as the Cache Creek Stakeholders Group would help to restore and maintain Cache Creek. Therefore, this project, which is being implemented in collaboration with the Cache Creek Stakeholders Group, is helping to achieve both the goals of the local community and those of the CALFED Program.

Project Overview

The Capay Valley subwatershed of Cache Creek in Yolo County consists of roughly 60,000 acres with 24 miles of meandering river. The upstream watershed's history of gold and mercury mining has left a legacy of high mercury levels in the creek. Upstream management practices as well as natural fluvial processes have also contributed to high sediment loads traveling downstream. Other issues of concern include invasive noxious plants and excessive streambank erosion in the Capay Valley.

In order to alleviate and reverse these problems, the Yolo County Resource Conservation District (RCD) and the Cache Creek Watershed Stakeholders Group (CCWSG) are working together on the Capay Valley Watershed Improvement Project (CVWIP). The goals of the CVWIP are to (1) educate landowners and support watershed stewardship, (2) facilitate landowner conservation efforts, and (3) develop a comprehensive watershed management plan to direct conservation efforts. The RCD and the CCWSG are working closely with Capay Valley Vision and the Cache Creek Conservancy to encourage collaborative watershed stewardship.

This project focuses on outreach to diverse stakeholders, watershed groups, agencies, and others to coordinate activities supporting better watershed stewardship. There are three primary tasks. The first task is to plan and implement hands-on demonstration projects in the watershed and create a framework to provide permitting assistance to landowners for restoration projects. The second task is to maintain and monitor the demonstration project sites for successful establishment, effectiveness, and watershed health benefits for use in outreach and adaptive management. The third task is to communicate project techniques and results within and beyond the watershed through an outreach program, regular stakeholder meetings, and coordination among various watershed groups.



A view of Cache Creek and the Capay Valley.

Contact Information

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